

limited circumstances, and he could not coerce his employees for asking him to listen. No one, I believe, can claim that there is any inherent evil of employees getting together and designating their own representative. If this becomes part of our constitution, then they could not be fired by their employer for doing so.

That is about all that this provision does. It is a very small thing, but it is a firm step down a long road that will result in dignity and security for many citizens of this State.

There are those who suggest that this should not be in the constitution, and they have applied some rule that they have accepted for themselves as to what should be in a bill of rights.

I remember once that Franklin Roosevelt spoke roughly to this argument—

THE CHAIRMAN: You have a little less than one-quarter of a minute.

DELEGATE SICKLES: —better the occasional thoughts of a government living in the spirit of charity, then the consistent omissions of a government frozen in the ice of its own indifference.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Kiefer, you have two and a half minutes to close.

DELEGATE KIEFER: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I am like a lone tree battling all these experienced and stronger speakers.

However, I have to reiterate, we are here battling for all of the people, not just for a segment, and I say to you I am not sure all labor is in favor of this, just certain groups.

I say that many of the things said in favor of the amendment are nonsequiturs. They are fine principles with which I am a hundred percent and wholly in agreement; but I do not think this provision belongs in the constitution. Furthermore, it is not in the same category with conservation and protection against bad business practices, which applies to everybody.

This just applies to some people and there are some people who will say this is a right; some people who will say please do not force this on me. It is not the kind of inalienable, natural permanent right that we should freeze into this constitution, particularly when this can be put on the statute books and is on the statute books in many states and in this State.

Labor is quite well protected, and perhaps can be better protected. I do not object to

that. I simply say that it does not belong here. I am like the old fellow who went bear hunting and shot at the bear and missed him. The bear came chasing after him. He ran down the hill. He finally grabbed the tree and swung up. The bear went after him, and he said, "Oh Lord, please help me, but if you can't help me, don't help the bear."

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Weidemeyer.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: I wonder if Mr. Kiefer would yield for a question.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Kiefer, do you yield for a question? You have one minute.

DELEGATE KIEFER: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Weidemeyer.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: You mentioned three letters. Would you state the names of the organizations from whom you got those letters?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Kiefer.

DELEGATE KIEFER: Maryland Classified Employees Association, Inc., Baltimore County Classified Employees Association, Inc., and the Classified Municipal Employees Association, Inc., Baltimore City, representing something over 25,000 people, all saying this is of legislative intent and character, and please do not put it in the constitution.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Weidemeyer.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: Is their position different at the present time from what it was at the hearings?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Kiefer.

DELEGATE KIEFER: No, we had people who presented their point of view shortly after the committee hearings. The Committee knew about it and read correspondence and papers from them.

THE CHAIRMAN: That ends the period of controlled debate.

Before we enter into the uncontrolled debate period, the Chair has had sent to the desk several amendments to this section.

I will call them in the order in which they apply to the language of the amendment. Apparently the first one would be Delegate Weidemeyer's.

Do you desire to offer your amendment AB?

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: I think in the interest of saving time, probably we